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# **Traditional medicinal knowledge about *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) feeding on Lemon grass [*Cymbopogon flexuosus* (Nees ex Steud.) W.Watson] in Chhattisgarh, India. Updated Version.**

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Traditional medicinal knowledge about *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) feeding on Lemon grass [*Cymbopogon flexuosus* (Nees ex Steud.) W.Watson] in Chhattisgarh, India. Updated Version.

## Pankaj Oudhia

### Introduction

**Entomophagy and Entomotherapy are well known in Asia since generations. Unfortunately not much work has been done to document valuable Traditional Medicinal Knowledge about Insects. Pankaj Oudhia is documenting this knowledge since year 1990. The present note “Traditional medicinal knowledge about *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) feeding on Lemon grass [*Cymbopogon flexuosus* (Nees ex Steud.) W.Watson] in Chhattisgarh, India.” is updated version of his previously published online research document available through pankajoudhia.com.**

**Keywords:** Entomophagy; Entomotherapy; Medicinal Insects; Ayurveda; Chhattisgarh;

According to the reference literatures, Lemon grass is a perennial aromatic grass. It yields East-Indian Lemon grass oil. The oil, obtained from the leaves, is used in perfumery and cosmetics. Lemon-grass oil is basic raw material for manufacture of many aromatic chemicals which find application in soap, perfumery and cosmetic industries. The oil is also used in many pharmaceutical preparations, such as pain balm and disinfectants. Lemon grass is under cultivation as aromatic crop in Chhattisgarh. It is also present in wild. Although it is said to be introduced in recent past but the traditional healers are aware of its medicinal properties and uses. *Bemisia tabaci* is a common pest of Lemon grass in cultivated fields. In the year 1996 when I presented some Lemon grass plants with this insect to the traditional healers of Chhattisgarh specialized in use of medicinal insect, they assured me to conduct a systematic research to search the medicinal potential of this insect. Through the recently conducted ethno-entomological surveys I got opportunity to collect the results of their initial trials. The traditional healers of Narharpur region have found the insect useful in treatment of nervous system disorders. They are using it in long term treatment of Mirgi (Epilepsy) along with medicinal herbs. The traditional healers of Bhopalpatnam region have found the insect very useful in treatment of bronchitis. They are using it internally, in small doses, with medicinal herbs. Most of the healers do not consider the insect safe for its use as single remedy. According to them there is a need for addition of medicinal herbs in each formulation in order to nullify the harmful effects of insects. Many times Lemon grass leaves are used for this purpose. The traditional healers of Bagbahera region informed that the harmful effects of Lemon grass can be eliminated with the help of insect and vice-versa. As their trials are in good progress, I am expecting that very soon, we will have the long list of medicinal uses with us. Through the on-going Ethno-entomological surveys, I am trying my best to meet the traditional healers living in areas where Lemon grass grows as wild population. I am confident that through interactions with them I will be able to gather more information as well as the scientific explanation regarding its effects.

In reference literatures, *Bemisia tabaci* feeding on Lemon grass is not mentioned as medicinal insect. *Bemisia tabaci* feeding on different hosts are used as medicinal insect in treatment of other troubles, by the traditional healers of Chhattisgarh. You will find the details in coming articles.

### New Comments added on May 2014

*Through recent surveys I have collected information about 3000 Formulations in which *Bemisia tabaci* feeding on Lemon grass is added as important ingredient. These Formulations are used for treatment of diseases of nervous system. In *Stellaria* and *Spergula* based Formulations it is added as*

*Quinary ingredient along with Shorea and Ficus religiosa.* In *Silene* and *Saponaria* based Formulations it is added as quaternary ingredient by the Traditional Healers of Bastar whereas the Healers of Odisha use it as quinary ingredient in these Formulations. In *Drymaria*, *Polygala* and *Xanthium* based Formulations it is added as tertiary ingredient. These Formulations are popular among the Traditional Healers but they add *Bemisia tabaci* as secret ingredient and claim that without it Formulations are considered incomplete. In *Flacourtie* and *Casearia* based Formulations it is added as senary ingredient with *Woodfordia*. In *Hybanthus*, *Bixa* and *Viola* based Formulations it is added as septenary ingredient. In *Cleome* and *Capparis* based Formulations used at early stages of diseases it is added as octonary ingredient. In *Crateva* and *Maerua* based Formulations it is added as nonary ingredient. In *Fumaria* and *Argemone* based Formulations it is added as denary ingredient. These Formulations are popular among the Traditional Healers of Chhattisgarh. For details on complete Formulations and dosage please visit pankajoudhia.com

Thank you very much for reading the article.

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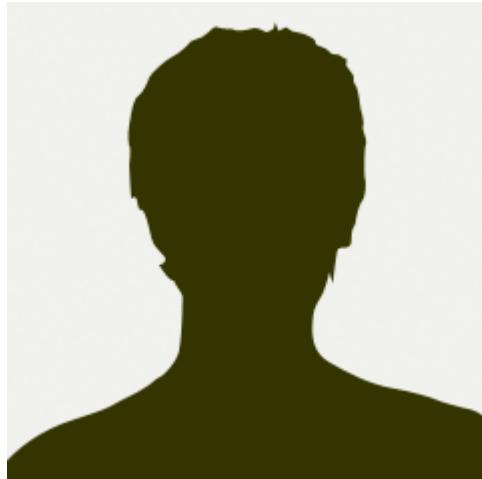
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